(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. M/s PragaTools Ltd., have technical infrastructure to undertake aircraft related machining work. They have been entrusted with machining work related to aircraft structural parts, tooling and Line Replaceable Units of LCA during Full Scale Engineering Development Phase.

(f) M/s Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) is identified as the designated production agency for LCA. Production requirement would be subcontracted by them to the identified vendors.

Demands/mention points raised regarding AFHQ employees

4206. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of demands/mention points concerning AFHQ employees were discussed/raised in the meeting of the Departmental Council (JCM) of DOP&T held on 17.7.2002;

(b) if so, the details of such demands/mention points/decisions;

(c) whether any follow up action on the above mentioned mention points/ decisions has been taken;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the progress made on each point; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and steps proposed to be taken for implementation of the decisions taken/points raised with the likely time involved?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir, no meeting took place on 17.7.2002 however the meeting was held on 12.7.2002.

(b) Details of demands/mention points are as given at Statement *(See* below).

(c) All the points have been/are being progressed and some points have already been decided.

(d) Details of action taken/progress report in respect of these items are as given in the Statement referred to answer of part (b) above.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Details of demands/mention points regarding AFHQ employees

Demands/mention points	Details of action taken/ progress report
(i) Bifurcation of Accounts from Audit in AFHQ	(i) It is not feasible to accept the demand, since setting up of separate account units within Office of Chiel Administrative Office (CAO) would involve creation of additional posts and also give rise to demands from other organizations. (ii) Post audit system has been introduced in respect of GPF advances/withdrawals of all AFHQ civilians. This is expected to lead to mitigation of grievances of AFHQ civilians for quick payments of their GPF claims. (iii) Before considering the extension of the post audit system in other transactions including TA/DA claims, medical claims, etc., it would be advisable to let the recently introduced system of post audit in respect of GPF transactions, function for some time. (iv) For TA/DA and Medical claims there is a system of paying advances under extent orders for all Government employees and there is thus nc apparent case of hardship as projected, as Advances are paid on priority and the Adjustment bills are pre-

Demands/mention points	Details of action taken/ progress report
	audited and passed expeditiously.
(ii) Amendment of the Schedule to CCS (CC&A) Rules, 1965 regarding Appointing Authority for Gp 'B' posts in AFHQ.	Staff Side has not yet submitted the brief which they were required to submit as per decision in the JCM Meeting.
(iii) AFHQ-Grant of Higher Pay to Stenographers for performing Higher/Additional Duties.	In the previous meeting of Departmental Council (JCM) the Chairman had not agreed with the demand for higher pay. So the point has been closed.
(iv) Sanction of Stenographers in AFHQ as per laid down yardstick.	The case for creation of additional posts of PSs and PAs as per their authorization is being processed.
(v) Application of Identical Rules to the Stenographers Service participating in the Departmental Council (JCM) of DOP&T.	This point has since been transferred to the Office Council (JCM) of AFHQ/ISOs.
(vi) Sanction of Training, Deputation and Leave Reserve	The point has been closed as there was no possibility of creation new posts.
(vii) Revision of the Pay Scale of Section Officers of the CSS	The case was taken up with DOP&T who have replied that the case of AFHQ Officers will be considered after the proposals in respect of CSS Officers are finalised.
(viii) Ratio between AFHQ Civilian vis-a-vis combatants and Unit clerks.	Relevant data are being compiled.
(ix) Cadre Review of Gp 'B' & 'C employees of AFHQ.	One preliminary meeting of the Cadre Review Committee has been held in March, 2003.

Demands/mention points	Details of action taken/ progress report
(x) In order to count service as LDCs of Stenos Grade 'D' appointed from the post of LDC for the purpose of ACP, the DOPT promised to issue an amendment to the rules a long time back, but the needful has not so far been done, it may be expedited. To cover past cases, the amendment may be made effective from 9.8.1999.	The Financial up-gradation under ACP Scheme has been correctly granted in accordance with provisions of ACP Scheme and the AFHQ Stenographers' Service Rules. In case DOP&T revise the CSSS Rules, the revised provision of these rules would not automatically apply to AFHQSS. The AFHQSS Rules would also have to be amended.
(xi) Based on CSSS Rules, the AFHQSS Rules were amended in August, 1996 to count approved service from 1 st July for promotion to various grades, excepting PPS grade. Subsequently, DOP&T issued instructions in September, 1998 to fix 1 st January as the crucial date of determining the eligibility of persons and also to get 1st January incorporated in the Rules. This has created an anomaly as the DOPT has refused to change the crucial date in respect of AFHQSS from 1st July to 1st January. As a result, the promotions of persons are adversely affected. The Staff Side requested for removal of this anomaly and grant of promotions in all pending	The draft revised Stenographers Service Rules are under consideration with UPSC. While submitting the draft rules for approval of DOP&T, proposal for keeping 1 st January as the date for counting of approved service in all the grades was not accepted by them as the same has not yet been incorporated in the Stenographers' Service Rules on CSS side. Any departure from CSS Rules was not agreed to by DOP&T on this issue. As regards eligibility for promotion, the proposed relevant clause enables the cadre controlling authority to operate in accordance with the DOP&T instructions issued in the matter from time to time.

Demands/mention points	Details of action taken/ progress report
cases from the date of then eligibility as per applicable Service Rules.	

Making of Hindi Test Compulsory in Entrance Exams of Defence Services

†4207. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question paper of English is compulsory in NDA, CDS and other entrance examinations of defence services;

(b) whether the question paper of Hindi is also compulsory or it is allowed as an optional paper;

(c) whether the high level qualifications in English are considered necessary for higher officers of defence services;

(d) whether the qualification in Hindi is also desirable; and

(e) if so, the action taken so far/proposed to be taken for examining the qualification of Hindi in entrance examinations of defence services?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Union Public Service Commission conducts two examinations *viz.* the National Defence Academy and Naval Academy Examination (NDA & NA) and the Combined Defence Services Examination (CDS) for admission to various Defence Academies. The syllabi for these examinations contain English as a subject paper. The question papers for both the examinations are of objective type (multiple choice).

(c) Good knowledge of English is preferable for higher officers of defence services.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The issue of introduction of Hindi as a medium of NDA & NA and CDS examinations is at present under the consideration of the Government.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.